

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORERS

PAM.
MISC.

The Bible for

The World



A CHINESE COLPORTEUR.

1900-1901

THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

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A FAMILIAR LETTER.

Dear Endeavorer :

That you value the Bible highly is proved by your pledge to read it every day, and to do what Christ has there said he would have you do.

But do you know that there are hundreds of languages and dialects, spoken by possibly two hundred millions of people, into which no part of the Bible has yet been even translated?

A hundred years ago there were only fifty-six languages which had been favored with some version of the Bible. During this century the number of languages has been brought up to four hundred, but of these less than one hundred possess the entire Bible, and into scores of them only a single book of it has been translated.

The population of the world is about one and a half billion souls. If all the Bibles, Testaments, and single books of the Bible that have ever been printed were available to-day they could only supply one fifth of the human race. But when we remember that nineteen twentieths of all these copies have been absorbed by Protestant lands, the destitution in the rest of the world is pitiful. The great work already done is, therefore, only a fair beginning of the greater task of translating the whole word of God into every language under heaven, and placing a copy of it in the hands of each of His children.

Is it not the chief duty of the Church and of every individual Christian to promote the spread of the Holy Scriptures, to the knowledge of which we owe our own salvation?

Have you or your Society yet taken any part in this glorious work? Do you know how you can?

Our great national agency for securing new translations, and for printing and circulating the Scriptures in all lands, is the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY. During the past eighty-four years it has sent out over sixty-seven million volumes of Scriptures.

The AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY needs and claims the help of all Christian Endeavorers, because :

1. Its work is essential in winning the world "for Christ and the Church."

2. There is nothing wasteful or doubtful in its aim or methods. Its funds are used solely for circulating the Bible without note or comment.

3. It is most cordially all-denominational, responding to needs both at home and abroad without regard to sect.

4. The Bible is the best missionary. The paralyzing of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY through lack of funds would mean the crippling of all missionary societies which must look to it for Scriptures.

5. The diversion to other denominational enterprises and to local charities of streams of benevolence which should come to the treasury of the Bible Society is a danger to which all should be alive. The possibility of such a danger is simply that the Society's work of circulating a million and a half volumes yearly is carried on so quietly as not to command the attention and support which it deserves. This is all the more reason why you who now know the need should help.

Will not you and your Society take a part in this great work?

A full SHARE is \$30.

Donors of this amount in a single payment may designate themselves or some one else as a Life Member of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, entitled to draw annually one dollar's worth of Scriptures for distribution.

What \$30 will do.

It will support a colporteur to represent you in the Orient for six months.

It will provide 150 destitute families with the entire Bible, or 600 with the New Testament, or 1,000 with a single Gospel.

If you cannot raise a full share \$30, can you not take half a share \$15, or one third \$10. The Juniors are glad to help by filling collecting cards, which will be sent on request.

All societies that will give a meeting to this object, and send a contribution large or small, may receive for one year, free, the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD, a sixteen page monthly paper with interesting news from many lands—very helpful for missionary meetings.

There will also be sent to any one who will try to help the cause, and who is properly vouched for, a collecting card and copies of this booklet for distribution, and a pamphlet containing specimens of translations in 242 languages.

You have been "put in trust with the gospel."

Please do not lay this aside till you and your Society have done something to fulfill this sacred trust.

Send all contributions to

WILLIAM FOULKE, TREAS.,

BIBLE HOUSE, NEW YORK.

WHAT CAN THE YOUNG PEOPLE DO FOR THE BIBLE CAUSE?

BY WILLIAM SHAW,

Treasurer, United Society of Christian Endeavor.

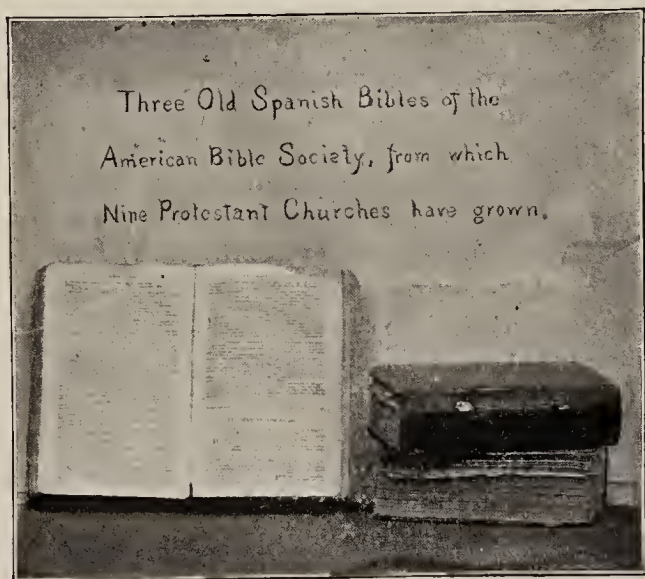
THIS is a practical question, and deserves a practical answer. I might confine myself to referring to the need of cultivating a personal love for the word on the part of the young people, or speak of plans and methods of securing better results from Bible study. But the Spirit does not lead me along these lines. As a business man, I have been thinking of the business side of the question.

The AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY is the recognized agency for the publication and circulation of the Bible. It was dear to the hearts of the fathers who gave to it largely both of prayer and money. But for some reason it dropped out of sight while the claims of other forms of missionary work were pressed upon the churches. Some months ago, I heard Mr. Colton (the special Agent for Eastern Massachusetts) deliver the first address on the needs of the Bible Society that I have heard for more than fifteen years. A generation has grown up that "knows not Joseph," and to whom the story of the mag-

nificent work done by this old Society is as fresh as the latest novel.

Therefore, in answering the question I have asked, I would say :

1. Let the young people inform themselves concerning the work that must be done by this Society, if it is to be done at all. The work is fundamental. Before any real progress can be



made in mission lands, the people must have the word. If I had to choose between the missionary without the Bible, or the Bible without the missionary, I would choose the latter. God's word shall not return unto him void. But I need not say that I prefer both the man and the Book.

2. By furnishing a score or a hundred such splendid fellows as Captain Carrington, the earnest Christian Endeavorer, who is scattering the Bible in Siam. No better missionary work is being done by any man in any land.

3. The most important service the young people can render to this and every other good cause, is to make their business a branch of the King's business. The loudest call for the extension of Christ's kingdom to-day comes to business men. And yet there are many young men who when converted think they must enter the ministry. The men and the machinery are ready, but the money is minus. God made silver ore as well as sermon ore, but man must mine and mint it before it will pass current in the markets of the world. People to-day do not need special instruction as to how to make money, but we do need light on how to spend it. Young people need to be taught that it is just as sacred a thing to make money for the extension of God's kingdom as to make sermons. More than anything else, the Bible Society needs money to-day that it may enter open doors with God's word.

What shall we do. Make provision for the presentation of this work in the churches. Inform the people. Give them a chance to give. Let the seed, which is the word, be scattered, and abundant harvests will be ours.

WHAT THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY DOES

For America :

1. It forces down the price of Bibles for *everybody* by selling them at cost.

2. It searches out the *poor and neglected* in cities and in *isolated regions* who would otherwise be deprived of God's word.

3. It supplies the brave men of our army and navy, and through its auxiliaries, the inmates of hospitals, prisons, homes, and many other institutions.

For Foreign Lands :

1. It promotes the accurate *translation* of the Scriptures into other languages, a work requiring wise unsectarian supervision. For each sect to make its own translations would mean great extravagance and increase of the scandal of divided Christendom.

2. It bears the expense of *printing and binding* these translations, a work beyond private enterprise and the resources of missionary boards. The extensive printing of Scriptures in Turkish, Armenian, and Greek at Constantinople, in Arabic at Beirut, Syria, as well as similar work in China, Japan, and elsewhere, is, in reality, *done at the expense of the Bible Society*, though missionary boards naturally often get the credit for it, as the work is done in their fields and in connection with their missionaries.

3. It maintains a thorough and extensive *system of distribution* through about three hun-

dred able and devoted agents and colporteurs, who also expound and vindicate the Scriptures



THREE JUMNA GIRLS.

in the home, the shop, or the street. These brave workers are the advance guard of the

great missionary army that is to conquer the world for Christ.

4. It thus lays the foundation for and supplements the work of foreign missionary societies of every creed.

"The Bible is the *best* missionary," as a distinguished missionary has himself pointed out. It is practically the *only* missionary for reaching Mohammedans, Roman Catholics, and Greeks in lands where the direct efforts of preachers and teachers are not tolerated or are obstructed, as in Turkey, Arabia, Austria, Spain, South America, and Russia.

The Increase in Gifts

to the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY should be immediate and abundant because of the increasing importance of its work, and because

1. *Its former income has been largely diverted* by the increasing appeals for denominational causes and for local charities. Christians of all creeds accept God's word, and should not forget that their *first* duty is to spread it, the source of all truth and life. How can any church treat this cause as an "outside object!"

2. *Its work is easily forgotten* because it is done quietly and out of sight. The preparation and distribution of Scriptures, though essential, is not romantic. It is like the work of stokers who feed the fires that drive the ocean liner.

3. *There is a false impression that the Society is rich.* The fact is that its entire income from investments and from rents of that part of the



PRESS ROOM OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.
The Modern Miracle of Pentecost.

Bible House not used for its own manufacturing plant is only enough to carry on its work for six weeks. The Society needs *at least* \$250,000 a year from the public.

Let all who believe the Bible give this cause their love, prayers, and support.

A SUPREME CLAIM.

The AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY is limited by its charter to the sole object of circulating the Bible without note or comment.

Thus none of its work can be of a *temporary, doubtful, or controversial* character. There is no waste to the Bible. It is, therefore, a *cause peculiarly worthy of being remembered with generous bequests*. The spiritual investments which it offers are of the highest value, bonds of the kingdom of heaven. Whether a contribution or a legacy, your money *will be used solely to promote the knowledge of the unadulterated word of God*. This is the world's greatest need, and will continue to be as long as the world stands.

How much will you give to meet it?

“Unto whomsoever much is given of him shall be much required.” “And he saw also a poor widow casting in thither two mites.”

Form of a Bequest to the Society.

I give and bequeath to the American Bible Society, formed in New York in the year eighteen hundred and sixteen, and incorporated in the year eighteen hundred and forty-one, the sum of, to be applied to the charitable uses and purposes of said Society.

FACTS FROM THE FIELD.

ONLY the briefest items can be given from the ANNUAL REPORT, and the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD, published monthly.

THE NEW WORLD.

The countries of Mexico, Central and South America, are wrapt up in our own destiny. Our commercial and political interest, as well as our religious duty, demand that we should give them the enlightenment and stimulus that come from the open Bible. This will not be done unless we do it, for the religious forces of Europe have left the new world to us. In answer to prayer, our opportunities have been greatly increased. All legal obstructions to the circulation of the Scriptures in these lands have at last been removed.

We cannot reap without sowing. Now is the seed-time. The seed is the word. God has done his part by preparing the seed and the soil. Shall we do ours by putting in the seed?

CUBA AND PUERTO RICO.

We have given our bullets to free them from Spanish tyranny. Let us now give them our Bibles that they may be free indeed. The Bible Society now appeals for special gifts to meet this new, sacred, and patriotic duty at our doors, as well as in the distant Philippines.

MEXICO.

Not half a million copies of the Scriptures are yet in the hands of the twelve millions of Mexicans.

Our Nearest Neighbors.

In 1899 we circulated 26,264 volumes. In face of all difficulties we can double these numbers each year if the free Bible loving Christians of America will give the means. We were only able to slightly increase the work last year. Mr. Hamilton, in charge of this Agency, writes :

These poor people, "for whom no man careth," after they have humbly listened to a chapter from the Bible, will make sacrifices to obtain it. They offer, in default of money, a rosary, a crucifix, pictures of saints, the sandals off their feet, eggs, firewood, anything in their poor possession, to obtain a copy of the "book of God," as they call it.

There is a slow and quiet movement in Mexico toward the simpler and deeper religion of the New Testament. The Mexicans are not an irreligious people; sheer atheism is not known; they have only been crushed by ecclesiasticism in times past.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

This Agency, with half a dozen colporteurs, covers the Isthmus of Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, San Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Mr. Penzotti, the Agent, reports that in spite of revolution, sickness, and the newness of the work, 7,218 Scriptures were sold, for which the people paid \$1,813 34.

Of the three million inhabitants in Central America, more than half are unable to read. The governments of these five republics are generally progressive and liberal; and while the Roman priesthood puts forth all its influence to hinder progress, the current is too strong for them to impede it.

VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA.

Mr. Norwood writes of the revolution, in spite of which over 2,000 volumes were sold in the half year from January to August, and adds interestingly :

While we were not allowed to distribute the Scriptures among the government troops, the generals of the liberal army not only allowed us to enter the barracks and offer a copy to every soldier who would promise to read it, but did all in their power to facilitate our plans. The courteous attention of the officers, the eagerness of the men to receive the book, and the marked attention given to every word I said, made the work of those few days very enjoyable.

BRAZIL.

Mr. Tucker reports a circulation of 32,025 copies for the year, an increase over the sales of 1898. He says :

The sales of entire Bibles and New Testaments have been larger this year than ever before. There can be no doubt that the Bible is becoming more popular in Brazil, and that an increasing number of persons are seeking after the light of God's word.

THE LA PLATA AGENCY

embraces Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chili, Peru, and Ecuador. Thirty-five years ago this was the only Agency our Society had in Latin America ; to-day it is one of six.

Power of the Bible.

The report of Mr. Milne contains many instances of conversion through Bible distribution.

"In Las Flores eight persons in one family were brought to Christ through the sale of one Bible.

They had not read it long when they cleared out all the images, saints, and relics to which they had been bowing down.

"One man found a Spanish Bible in a heap of rubbish. The more he read the more his interest deepened until he found forgiveness and rest of soul, and that before attending any evangelical meeting whatever."

Christianization Without the Bible.

For more than a century and a half the Jesuits had absolute control over Paraguay. In three years they baptized 24,970. At the time of their expulsion in 1767 they had the whole thoroughly christianized after their manner. To-day all that remains of their work is the ruins of their houses, and the orange groves they planted. Not a vestige of any spiritual, moral, or intellectual enlightenment.

THE LEVANT AGENCY.

This is in charge of Mr. Bowen at Constantinople, and covers Bulgaria, European and Asiatic Turkey, and Egypt. Issues last year, 81,546 volumes in thirty languages.

The 52,893 copies in Arabic show that a great work is being quietly done among the Mohammedans who cannot be reached by open preaching.

In the Track of Massacres.

More copies of Scriptures have gone into the hands of those who never looked on the book than for years previous ; and it has been read and explained also to large groups of women. Perhaps the very fact that they had seen this word trampled under feet, torn and burned, led them to wonder what it was that excited so much hatred, and lo ! they found it comfort and rest for just such weary ones as they.

A young Armenian girl who was carried off among

the Koords saw her own Testament in the midst of plunder that was brought to the village. She did not dare to ask for it, but one day after being allowed to return to her own home, an Armenian friend brought in an old, well-read Testament which he said he had bought from a Koord, and behold! it was her very own. How God had watched over that book to comfort her broken heart! Many are the scorched, battered copies of God's word which we see as we go about. They were rescued from the destroyer and are loved and cherished as never before. The Lord breathe his Spirit's power through them all!

CHINA.

The eyes of the world have been turned upon China. This is one of the greatest fields of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY. Its issues last year were 514,295 volumes.

Dr. Hykes reports that they have been scattered in thousands of towns and villages, throughout eighteen provinces, and will do much toward molding the thought and life of the new China, which is bound to supersede the old. There is a great demand for Christian Scriptures far beyond what we can supply with our limited funds.

The dreadful outbreak of the Boxer rebellion may retard the work in the North, but vast regions are as yet undisturbed.

Similar reports of the work in Japan, Korea, Siam, India, Africa, and the islands of the sea might be given if space permitted.

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

The Bible is practically an unknown book there. The Agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society sent to Manila in 1889 was promptly poisoned and the work stopped.

The AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY's Agent for China, Rev. Dr. Hykes, visited the Philippines immediately after the battle of Manila Bay. He reported :

I feel safe in saying that sacerdotal despotism and official rapacity are alone responsible for the present rebellion. The exactions and iniquities of the friars are the subjects of common conversation. I thought the desecration of the Cavite churches was very suggestive of a changed attitude toward the Church. I visited one of the churches and found that the insurgent soldiers had destroyed the altar and cut up the images of the saints.



THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. GOODRICH, MANILA.

I think it would be difficult to find a more needy field, and the call that comes to the Protestant churches of America is loud and urgent. The people

are, and have been, without the Bible. They know there is such a book, and that is about all.

The Gospel of Mark is ready in Tagalog and Pangasinan, the two principal languages of the Philippines.

The Rev. JAY C. GOODRICH has been sent by the Society to this field as the Agent of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY. He reports a most eager demand for the Scriptures. Of a recent visit to Dagupan he writes :

We found the market place crowded, and when we offered our Gospels for sale we were soon surrounded, and as fast as we could make the change the people bought the blessed word. It did not take long to sell every book in their language that we had been able to procure. Walking through the stalls afterward we saw the people reading on every hand. I cannot tell you how I longed to be able to speak words of counsel and direction to them, but all I could do was to mark passages and listen as they read the invitations of Christ over and over again.

For three cents you can place a Spanish Gospel, or for twenty-five cents a Testament, English and Spanish parallel, in their hands.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.

A careful student of missionary operations has said :

The Bible Society offers a wider range of Christian efficiency than any missionary board. It transcends denominational lines and reaches out to places and peoples that are otherwise inaccessible.

TESTIMONY OF A MISSIONARY.

"If there were no Bible Society, and as a consequence no Bible, we might as well 'pack up shop and go home.' Our first and great concern is to get the word into the hands of the people and into their hearts."—*Rev. Samuel Jessup, Sidon.*

DENOMINATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS.

Congregational.—"The Bible Society is a grand auxiliary to our work in every land."—*Rev. Judson Smith, D.D., Secretary, American Board.*

Presbyterian.—General Assembly:

"That the thanks of the Assembly be extended to the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY for generous aid in



BIBLE CART, JAPAN.

supplying our missionaries with all Bibles needed for gratuitous distribution, and that our churches be exhorted to remember this Society in their gifts."

Reformed Church.—General Synod:

"*Resolved*, That we heartily and earnestly recommend the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY to all our churches as being worthy of our fullest confidence and support, and helpful in all departments of our work."